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ABSTRACT

Maine has had educational television (ETV) for about 12 years. ETV has been successful in putting on public service programming, despite the legislature's suspicions of this type of programming. The fact that ETV has not had more widespread success in instructional television for the state's classrooms may partly depend on the state legislature's stingy appropriations for this purpose. The author, himself a legislator, hopes that more can be done with ETV and cable television, but he is concerned that we do not really know how to use the "monster" known as television. Attached are Maine legislative acts pertaining to public broadcasting. (JK)

ED 060657

# EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION IN MAINE.

Bennett Katz

State of Maine
Committee on Education
Augusta, Maine 04330

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April 1972

EM 009 703

**BENNETT KATZ**

# *Educational TV (Maine)*

***Senator Katz is chairman of the Maine Senate Committee on Education and former majority leader of the upper house. A graduate of Tufts, Katz served on the Augusta City Council and is a member of the Maine Education Council and Maine School Building Authority. Treasurer of the Education Commission of the States for the current year and a member of the ECS Steering and Executive Committees, he is in the jewelry business in Augusta.***

Educational TV in Maine is about 12 years old, and one senses that it has come of age to a greater extent than ever before. It is supported by our legislature, and yet that legislature is so basically deeply suspicious of the juice in the field of public service that it walks on thin ice. It is one small step away from controversy at any given moment, yet it attracts capable staff and to this one legislator it is doing an effective job in public service.

While commercial TV talks about public service programming, ETV does something about it in Maine, even to the point of becoming deeply involved in hot emotional issues. The appearance of elected officials before the camera may give each party the impression that the other is being favored, but actually a balance is carefully maintained, and during the legislative session a legislative report is a nightly affair.

Even after a dozen years and a four-station network, ETV which is administratively under the university, skates on ice which is painfully thin. There are legislators, including myself, who feel that the prime orientation of ETV should be ITV or instructional television. We are frankly disappointed that this magic media has not developed spectacular success stories in Maine classrooms. Yet, we must stand indicted for our stingy attitude towards appropriations to the State Department of Education, which through an organizational twist gets the money which then is tolled out to the university and others for instructional television.

In Maine we watch the development of cable TV and read about the little black box which will sit on top of any TV set and play prerecorded video cassettes on demand and hope that our electronic technology can be used with increasing success by that veracious consumer of resources we call public education. The special session of the Maine legislature coming up early next year will be out to make a significant investment in further development of instructional TV. I approached the session shaking with carefully controlled optimism. As a legislator I am willing to support an appropriation, yet, I am beset with a nagging doubt that we really know how to properly use this monster called television. ■

Maine legislative acts pertaining to public broadcasting.

## EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION


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### § 2601. Committee; expenses

A Committee on Educational Television, as heretofore created for the purpose of facilitating the development of educational television in the State, shall consist of 7 members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. At the time of the first appointments, one shall be appointed for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, 2 for 4 years and 2 for 5 years, and thereafter for a full term of 5 years. One member of the committee shall be a representative of the State Department of Education, one member of the committee shall be a representative of the University of Maine and the remaining members shall be citizens of the State of Maine. Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. Members of the committee shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

1963, c. 414, § 13.

### § 2602. —Organization; quorum

The committee shall elect a chairman, secretary, vice-chairman and treasurer, each of whose terms of office shall be 2 years. The committee shall adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for the calling and holding of meetings and the administration of its affairs, as it deems appropriate and necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of transacting business.

## § 2603. —Powers and duties

The Committee on Educational Television is empowered and authorized to act as follows:

**1. Recommendations.** To make such recommendations to the trustees of the University of Maine as it deems necessary relating to the appointment of professional, clerical or other assistants, location of educational television stations and construction and equipment of said stations necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

**2. Programs.** To give its advice and consent to the trustees of the University of Maine for the educational television programs to be transmitted by the network.

1963, c. 414, § 13.

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## § 2604. Gifts

The Governor and Council are authorized to accept any gift of money, real or personal property, from any source whatsoever, and grants-in-aid from the Federal Government to assist in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

1963, c. 414, § 13.

## § 2605. Construction of state-wide network

The University of Maine is authorized to acquire real estate, construct, operate, manage and equip transmission and microwave television facilities and to interconnect with any other television network or station within or without this State for the purpose of providing a state-wide educational television network for the transmission of educational television to pupils in the schools, colleges, university and adult audiences throughout the State; and the University of Maine is authorized to enter into contracts for the construction of said facilities, contracts for personal services necessary for the management and operation of said facilities and any other contracts deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

1963, c. 414, § 13.

## § 2606. Political and governmental activities prohibited; penalty

None of the facilities, plant or personnel of any educational television system which is supported in whole or in part by state funds shall be used directly or indirectly for the promotion, advertisement or advancement of any political candidate for any municipal, county, state or federal office or for the purpose of advocating or opposing any specific program, existing or proposed, of governmental action which shall include, but shall not be limited to, constitutional amendments, tax referendums or bond issues. Any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than $5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both.

# THE MAINE PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK

(Main Office)
Alumni Hall
University of Maine at Orono
Orono, Maine 04473
207 581-7551

(Portland Office)
University of Maine
at Portland-Gorham
96 Falmouth Street
Portland, Maine 04103
207 773-2981

Duties:

Public radio and television broadcasting agency of the University of Maine. Telecommunications service and consultation to campuses of the University of Maine.

Professional Staff:

John R. Morison, General Manager
Roger W. Hodgkins, Assistant to the General Manager (Portland)

The Maine Public Broadcasting Network - Continued

Calvin M. Thomas II, Director of Program Development
Erik Van de Bogart, Director of Educational Services
Edward Winchester, Director of Engineering
Kenneth B. Krall, Director of Television Programming
Lester W. Spencer, Jr., Director of Radio Programming
Daniel C. Everett, Executive Producer, News and Public Affairs